Volume II, no. 9 may, 1959

# CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

## A NATION-WIDE PROGRAM FOR PEACE

*By Herman F. Reissig*

Do American Christians mean business when they pray for world peace? For, at least, ministers and members of Protestant churches the twelve months beginning June 1st, 1959, will provide a kind of test. A comprehensive, interdenominational plan for raising the level of intelligent participation in international affairs has been prepared. Conceivably, this might be the beginning of a really significant contribution to a better world order. Conceivably, if the plan has the support of enough churches, a little less Christian longing for peace might go to waste. The question is: Will you and your church cooperate, with real energy, in carrying out this plan?

### The Program

Using the thrust, and some of the excellent materials, provided by the World Order Study Conference that met in Cleveland last November, leaders of the National Council of Churches and of the member denominations propose the following:

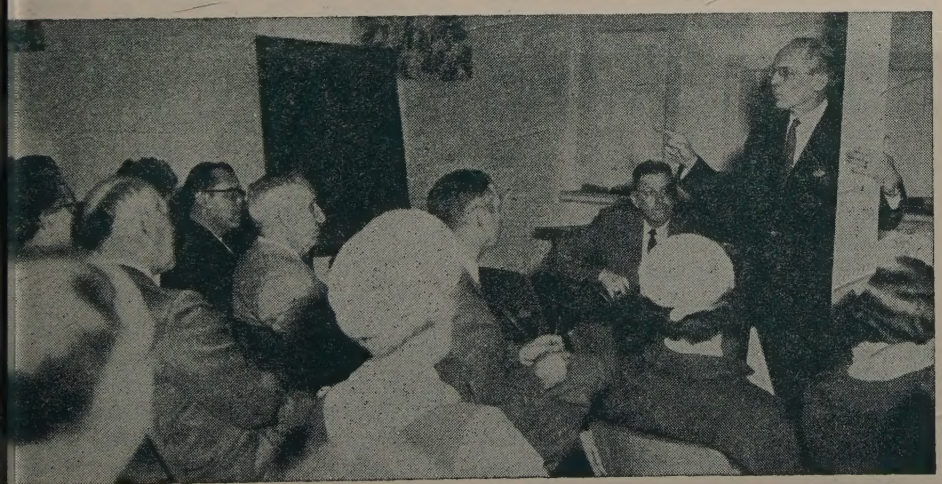
**That during the summer of this year international affairs be featured in all denominational and interdenominational institutes and conferences;**

**That in the fall of 1959 every State and local council of churches present a special institute on international affairs;**

**That between January and June, 1960, every local church give its people more-than-usual opportunities to meet for study and action on international affairs.**

That is the bare bones of the program. What is being done to make it come to life? And where do you come in? In the four Social Action Institutes to be presented next summer by the CCSA, international affairs will be given very unusual emphasis, with discussions on this subject on all of the five evenings and additional attention during the day. If you want help in your church for making our faith more effective in international affairs, see to it that one or more of your ablest people attend one of these institutes. Persons attending will get some real training in the conduct of local church institutes, meetings, discussion groups. Your church is where this whole program really heads up! Under expert

*(Continued on Page 3, Col. 2)*



**Members of six Iowa churches meet in Immanuel-Memorial United Church, Alden, to consider America's world responsibility with the Reverend Herman F. Reissig, International Relations Secretary of the Council for Christian Social Action. Such discussions will take place in thousands of churches throughout the fifty states during the coming year in the Nation-wide Program for Peace described by Mr. Reissig in the accompanying article.**

## View Social Goals At General Synod

On July 5-8, representatives of the synods and state conferences will meet on the Oberlin College campus at Oberlin, Ohio, in the second General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

Because of the many time-consuming items on the agenda, the Synod is not being asked to deal with a number of specific social issues. Instead it will give careful consideration to the Call to Christian Action in Society, presently under discussion in conferences, synods, and congregations. This statement, with the remainder of the Council's report in the White Book, will be referred to a Review Committee, which will hold a hearing on the report. At this time both the proposals which have been submitted by groups presently studying the Call, and others offered by members of the Synod, will be considered. The Review Committee will then bring its recommendations to the floor of the Synod.

In addition to consideration of the Council's Report and the recommendations of the Review Committee, Tuesday evening has been set aside for the presentation of the Council's concerns in a public meeting. In line with the interdenominational coordinated emphasis on World Order, an internationally esteemed statesman is being invited to address this meeting.

Immediately following the Synod on July 9-11, the Council for Christian Social Action will have its semi-annual meeting. A cordial invitation is extended to delegates and visitors to the General Synod and friends from the vicinity to attend these sessions.

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Pastors and members of our churches will not want to miss the April SOCIAL ACTION dealing with "Christian Burial." The May issue, entitled "The Price of Peace in Our Time," will be an important resource in the Nationwide Program for Peace.

Either may be ordered at 25 cents per copy, $15 per hundred.

# NEWS FROM THE FIELD

The North Illinois Synod Committee on Christian Social Action recently sent out a questionnaire to find out what social issues the pastors of the synod considered to be of primary importance. The returns showed a widespread concern with community problems, racial tensions, and economic relations. In order to encourage general and prompt reply to the questionnaire, the committee exercised commendable ingenuity—and judgment—by offering as a bonus to those who cooperated a copy of the CCSA *Manual* for Christian Social Action. We call that good strategy and good education, too!

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Seattle, Washington now has a "Committee to Promote Open Housing." It is composed of a group of citizens representing civic organizations and several church denominations concerned to make Greater Seattle a better place to live in. The Committee's purpose is to advertise the fact that many residents of the area are opposed to "discrimination in housing and pledge that they will welcome as neighbors on an individual basis all persons, without regard to race, creed, or national origin." The Seattle Association's Social Action Committee is actively promoting the work of this new civic movement.

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A similar movement in Des Moines, Iowa, the Des Moines Committee on Integrated Housing, took a full-page advertisement in the Des Moines *Tribune* not long ago. In addition to carrying the names of organizational sponsors, including the Board of Christian Social Action of Plymouth Congregational Church, several hundred individuals attached their names and addresses to this "Statement of Conscience."

* * * *

Speaking of Iowa, some of our readers spotted an advertisement in the *New Yorker* which showed J. Stuart Russell, Farm Editor of the Des Moines *Register* and *Tribune,* appreciatively contemplating some of the corn which is the pride of the state. Mr. Russell in his vocation as a journalist, as a director of the Soil Conservation Society of America, as a member of the Council for Social Action and of the Committee on Economic Life of the Council for Christian Social Action, demonstrates what one Christian layman can do.

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Recently the very effective leader of social action forces in Kansas, Guy T. Gebhardt, was temporarily withdrawn from circulation by an enforced stay in the hospital. This gave him leisure to join Edward R. Murrow and other astute minds in evaluating television's contributions to the good life. Says he: "My buddies (I had four) and I beguiled the long morning hours watching the zany antics of Joan, Conny Brooks and Gracie Allen. In the afternoon we wept with the woes of Riley and the King Fish. We were saturated with Tide and Texy, cigarettes and deodorants, and thoroughly convinced that everyone should have a Playtex girdle. In the evenings we were lulled to rest by the pop-pop of the outlaw guns of Wells Fargo, Maverick, and Gun Smoke. We went to sleep in the simple faith that in the end that marshal got his man and the U. S. Cavalry arrived in the nick of time."

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As Virginia is pulled by various proposals for delaying, accepting, and avoiding public school desegregation, the Christian Social Action Committee of the Congregational Christian Church of Fairfax County addressed a letter to the State Commission on Education. The following is an excerpt: "We wish to state our strong support of public education. We deplore the actions which have been taken already to weaken public education. Our denomination and our church have always strongly supported the opportunity for an adequate education for *all* citizens as essential for the progress and welfare of our state and country." The committee registered its opposition to the provision of tuition grants for those who remove their children from public schools as well as the repeal of compulsory attendance laws.

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The monthly parish paper of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Elyria, Ohio, Dr. Walter F. Reif, pastor, contained a two-page report of her experience at the February Churchmen's Washington Seminar, written by Thelma Morningstar. Mrs. Morningstar, a member of the church, is Christian Social Action chairman of the Northeast Ohio Synod Women's Guild. This strikes us as an excellent way of sharing the information acquired at such programs.

* * * *

A pastor in the deep South in a letter to the Council office makes two significant observations about racial attitudes: "Last year when I was being considered for the pulpit, the church leaders asked me about my convictions on race. I was positive in my view, and they told me that if I had any prejudice against the Negro they would not consider me as their leader . . . Some of the people most against better race relations here are Northerners who have come here to live. They are good church members, too . . . They often prove to be more of a problem than the real Southerners."

* * * *

One hundred and fifty members of the four Congregational Christian Churches of Raleigh, North Carolina met in a fellowship dinner on Race Relations Sunday, February 8. Three of the churches are Negro churches, the fourth one almost entirely a white church. Speakers discussed programs and techniques of Christian Social Action. It was the first gathering of this size ever to be held which brought together members of all four Congregational Christian Churches in this city.

# KOINONIA CONTINUED

Superintendent James H. Lightbourne, Jr., of the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches, visited Dr. and Mrs. Clarence Jordan at Koinonia Farms approximately the middle of March. In spite of some continuing difficulties, he found Dr. Jordan in good spirit and looking to the future with hope. He declares that he would certainly want to give encouragement to churches and individuals who are interested in sending gifts to or buying products from Koinonia.

Two particular circumstances are of interest. The first concerns the arrest of two members of the farm who were forced to unload ground limestone, shipped to Koinonia by freight car, after local dealers refused to supply the farm. They were found guilty of grand larceny for "stealing lime at the railroad siding" and sentenced to a term in jail. The jail term was suspended upon payment of $250 in fines. As they were without legal counsel, no appeal to a higher court could be made. The circumstances all point to the fact that this was a definite miscarriage of justice.

The second incident has to do with the cutting of timber on the farm under difficulties connected with the fact that unknown persons trespass on the property at night and tamper with the cutting equipment. When the workman went to the sheriff, he was told that he ought to have known that this sort of thing would happen if he got involved "with those people."

Many individuals and some local churches in the United Church of Christ have in the past shown their support and interest, and this has been a real factor in enabling the members of Koinonia Farm Community to continue with their brotherhood witness. Dr. Jordan has written his very real appreciation for this demonstration of fellowship.

## HELP NEEDED

As those know who have followed the ily press and such information services *Memo* (Washington Office, National ouncil of Churches), a number of im- rtant pieces of national legislation ay die as a result of hostility or indif- rence on the part of either the Congress the White House.

One such effort in need of friends is e proposal to amend the *Fair Labor andards Act* so as to increase the inimum wage from the present in- dequate hourly rate of $1 to at least 1.25 and to extend coverage to more an 7.5 million workers now ex- mpted—farm workers, employees of re- il stores, laundry and cleaning workers, afood processors, and others in the na- on's lowest-paying industries who need ch protection most. Bills seeking to rrect these evils are S. 1046 (Kennedy- Morse), S. 1085 (McNamara), H. R. 488, 4947, and 4948 (James Roosevelt). mall business firms and small farms are ecifically exempted, and agricultural inimums would be brought into effect y gradual increases.

The Senate has passed an *Area Rede- elopment Bill* (S. 722) similar to that pported by CCSA and vetoed by the resident last year. It would provide chnical assistance, retraining, loans and rants for communities and industries hich have become chronically de- ressed. The bill is now in the House anking and Currency Committee.

Support is badly needed to head off ny pruning of the $3,929,995,000 re- uested by the President for the *Mutual ecurity Program.* Hearings are con- inuing as CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY goes o press.

A number of civil rights bills have been ntroduced. For an analysis, see *Memo* or March 1, 1959.

The National Education Association's roposals for strengthening of teachers' alaries and school construction have been mbodied in S. 2 (Murray), and H. R. 22 (Metcalf).

The House Rules Committee has oted not to hold hearings on either H. Res. 53 (James Roosevelt) or H. Res. 110 (Doyle) proposing to abolish the House Un-American Activities Commit- tee.

H. R. 284 and H. R. 2332, presently efore the House Education and Labor Committee, would repeal the requirement hat persons receiving scholarships under the National Defense Education Act must take a Loyalty Oath.

## Program for Peace

*(Continued from Page 1, Col. 2)*

leadership, institute members will go through the report of the National Study Conference and other materials. They will receive suggestions on "how to do it" in the local church. They will have, in essence, a training course on helping people to think and act on international affairs.

Almost all state councils of churches have already agreed to have, early in the fall, a state-wide training institute. Leaders of the National Council's Department of International Affairs have been travelling around the country to stimulate state leaders. In some states, quite elaborate plans have been made. What is your part in this? You can help your local council of churches send a strong delegation to the state-wide meeting. You can make sure your own denomination is well represented. Get the information on time and place from your state or local council.

Later in the fall, local councils of churches will present, usually, one-day institutes. Some of you will prepare yourselves to help in the local council's program by attending the state-wide meeting. But many more from your church will be able to attend the institute in your own city.

### The Heart of the Program

For all the activity on the national, State, and city levels, not much is going to happen unless something happens in your church. Will you—now, without delay—take this up with the officers and social action leaders of your church? Between January and June, 1960, what institutes, what forums, what study groups on international affairs will you offer to your people? The CCSA is ready to help you to the limit of its resources. In our denomination, the basic materials will be the booklet, *Christian Responsibility on a Changing Planet* (report of the World Order Study Conference. 35 cents, quantity rates lower) and the May, 1959, issue of SOCIAL ACTION, containing the article, "The High Price of Peace in Our Time." Other background materials and popularized presentations will be available.

### Caution!

No one is proposing a whirlwind campaign of six months that will settle everything, after which the churches go back to the usual amount of attention, or lack of it, to international concerns. It *is* proposed that the local church do an unusual amount of work in this area in the six months period. But it is certainly hoped that this unusual emphasis will lead to a permanently higher level of church participation. Brethren and sisters, we simply must lift the level! What we are doing now is not enough! It could even be said that most churches and most Christians are only fooling around the edges of the embattled cause of world peace and freedom. The price of peace in our time comes high! Much higher than most of us think!

### FOR MINISTERS, SOCIAL LEADERS, CHURCH OFFICERS

Will you go to work now in the following ways:

1. Recruit some of your best leaders for the CCSA Social Action Institute in your part of the country. Write for copies of the descriptive folder. And/or send us the names of prospects. See list of places and dates on the Social Action Calendar elsewhere on this page.

2. Ask your State and local council of churches about the time and place of next fall's institutes. And offer your support.

3. Plan a program for your church, January to June, 1960, that will really get the attention of your people.

4. Write to the New York or Cleveland office of the CCSA to tell us what you are doing and to ask for whatever help the CCSA can give.

## SOCIAL ACTION CALENDAR

**June 22-26 — West Coast Christian Social Action Institute, White Memorial Retreat Center, Mill Valley, Calif.**
**June 23 - August 1—CCSA Europe-Middle East Seminar.**
**June 28 - July 23—Summer School of Alcohol Studies, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.**
**June 29 - July 11—Race Relations Institute, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee.**
**July 1-5—General Synod, Evangelical and Reformed Church, Oberlin, Ohio.**
**July 5-9—General Synod, United Church of Christ, Oberlin, Ohio.**
**July 9-11 — Council for Christian Social Action, Oberlin, Ohio.**
**July 13-17—Midwest Christian Social Action Institute, Lakeland College, Sheboygan, Wis.**
**July 20-24—Central Christian Social Action Institute, Congregational Center, Lisle, N. Y.**
**July 27-31—Eastern Christian Social Action Institute, Congregational Center, Framingham, Mass.**
**August 6-25—Mexican Study Seminar.**
**September 6—Labor Sunday.**
**October 4—World-wide Communion Sunday.**
**October 20-22—United Nations — World Order Seminar, New York.**
**October 25—World Order Sunday.**
**November 6—World Community Day.**
**January 17-23—Church and Economic Life Week.**
**January 27-29—Council for Christian Social Action, Buck Hill Falls, Pa.**
**February—United Church of Christ Month of Emphasis on Christian Social Action.**
**February 14—Race Relations Sunday.**
**February 23-26—Churchmen's Washington Seminar.**

## LAST CALL – ALMOST!

You want to be ready for the Nationwide Program for Peace when your church, your synod or association, your local council of churches needs leaders—and you don't want to feel completely helpless, do you? Then take a fresh look at the Social Action Calendar for this summer. Make special note of the Christian Social Action institutes.

*Mill Valley,* June 22-26 — for the West Coast, the Rocky Mountain and Intermountain areas.

*Lakeland,* July 13-17—for the Midwest, from the Great Plains to Indiana and Kentucky, and south to Louisiana and Texas.

*Lisle,* July 20-24—for the East Central states, Ohio, New York, western and central Pennsylvania.

*Framingham,* July 27-31—for eastern Pennsylvania, the Middle Atlantic states, New England, and the South.

Remember — besides the background you get on economic life, race relations, and the other areas of Christian social action—every evening brings a session on one phase or other of *Christian Responsibility on a Changing Planet.*

For information, programs, registration blanks, or reservations, Congregational Christians write to Miss Fern Babcock, 289 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.; E&Rs to the Rev. Huber F. Klemme, 2969 West 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio.

## CCSA To Counsel Conscientious Objectors

Responsibility for counseling conscientious objectors and others concerned with the moral aspects of military service has been assigned to the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church. Action transferring oversight of Congregational Christian objectors from the Service Committee to the CSA was taken by the Executive Committee of the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches in a meeting at Cleveland, April 3-4. This ministry has been lodged with the Commission on Christian Social Action by the Evangelical and Reformed Church since 1940.

In the discharge of this responsibility, the Council maintains a file of all individual conscientious objectors registering a statement of conviction with the Council. A form for new enrollees is being prepared, to be completed in triplicate, the original to be filed with the CCSA, one copy with the registrant's home church, and a third to be retained by the registrant himself.

As a further service, the Council has prepared a 25-cent packet on Conscientious Objection containing a registration form, a bulletin on *Conscientious Objectors in the United Church of Christ,* useful pamphlets on Selective Service regulations governing COs, and information on alternative service. It is planned to have sample packets at summer camps and conferences for the use of young people and their leaders who have a concern in this field.

In addition, there will be occasional mailings of letters or materials to the persons listed. In order that these services may be most effectively rendered it is requested that inquiries and requests for registration forms or literature be directed to Dr. Huber F. Klemme, Council for Christian Social Action, 2969 West 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio.

## DON'T MISS MEXICO

There is still time to sign up for the CCSA Mexican Travel Seminar, August 6 to 25. $295 covers all expenses except for personal purchases, optional programs, and transportation to Mexico City and back home.

Human rights, technical assistance, economic development, political aspirations come alive as you meet both leaders and ordinary citizens among our near, and little known, neighbors.

In addition to the leadership of Nelsen and Charlotte Schlegel, with their background as teachers in Egypt and Iraq, as pastor, and CCSA field secretary, and as religious educator, the groups will have the service of outstanding consultants in Mexico.

For information, write to the Reverend F. Nelsen Schlegel, 2969 West 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio.

Senator Humphrey has introduced a resolution calling upon the United States delegates to persist in negotiations until a feasible agreement to end atomic explosions in the earth's atmosphere has been achieved.

**CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

**MAY, 1959**

**News and Program Service of the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ**
**Ray Gibbons, Director**
**Huber F. Klemme, Associate Director and Editor**

Sent free to pastors and social action committee chairmen. Group subscriptions, 10 or more to one address, 50 cents each. Individual subscriptions, $2 per year with SOCIAL ACTION upon request.

General communications and orders from Evangelical and Reformed churches should be addressed to the Editor, Council for Christian Social Action, 2969 W. 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio.

Congregational Christians should order from Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

The Council for Christian Social Action unites the work of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Commission on Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

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